



## Match Report

Opponent: Britannia Royal Naval College

Date: 11 Apr 06

Match: Navy 44 BRNC 0

The United States Naval Academy played host to their brothers from Dartmouth, England as the Britannia Royal Naval College began their Spring Tour of the US. It was a glorious day for rugby with the stage set by a decent crowd and the Naval Academy Pipes and Drums.



The Americans kicked to start the match and were soon after on the board. Second class wing Chase Hobby gave the Gold Shirts an early 3 nil lead with a 25 meter penalty. Dartmouth looked to be ready to tie it up two minutes later only for their 20 meter attempt to go wide. The Mids in Gold began to dictate play and scored two try in the next ten minutes.

The first went to senior hooker Chris Gonzales who scooped up a dead pass and pounded in from 3 out. Senior wing Lane Drummond converted for a

10 nil lead. Second class center Mike Humara was next on the board for USNA after a very strong mauling sequence by the Gold Shirts pack. Humara picked from the ruck and dove in, Chase conversion (Navy 17 BRNC 0).

In the 27<sup>th</sup> minute, both teams were forced from the pitch to facilitate the landing of a medical airlift helicopter. No details are known, but the prayers and wishes of both teams went along with the helicopter.

The 15 minute delay saw little change with the resumption of play.



The Midshipmen from Annapolis continued to apply pressure in the Dartmouth end of the field. A stolen lineout began the Golds' next scoring phase. Senior prop Captain Ian Uber took the ball from the maul under the line out and pounded ahead through

Dartmouth forwards for some tough meters. Senior 8 man Captain Jake Womble would be the one to finish under the posts off the pass from second class fly half Kevin Peterson, no conversion (Navy 22 BRNC 0).



Ian Uber was again a key factor in the last score of the half. Senior fullback Eric McElvenny put a kick in behind the British defense in the 22. Wing Lane Drummond provided the chase and pressure and Uber was able to secure the ball and begin another Gold Shirted maul. The maul moved ten meters to the edge of the goal line where Gonzales put in for his second of the match, no conversion (Navy 27 BRNC 0).



With the wind now at their backs, the British came out with renewed vigor to start the second half. By far the

better half in terms of quality of play, the first 13 minutes saw contested play between the 22's. The Mids from Annapolis continued to pound their centers into the Black and Red line of Dartmouth's defense. The British added some more kicking to an already steady forward game off close off the rucks.

The scrums were a solid advantage for the Boys in Gold all day and produced the first score of the second half. A stolen scrum on the BRNC 22 led to multiple, prodding runs from the American pack. With the Dartmouth defense contracted, Humara had to simply field the pass from Peterson and touch down as he crossed the goal line un touched, no conversion (Navy 32 BRNC 0).



The game quickly began to open up as the Black and Red glad British pushed to get on the score board. The British back line looked to play their fullback into gaps and allow him to dip and dodge between the Gold defense as he did all day on kick counters. However, with the play opening up, room appeared for errors. Third class Jordan Fogler would benefit from this

as he scooped a BRNC knock-on in their backline and scampered in 45 meters for a try and a 39 nil score line, Hobby conversion.



The next 10 minutes saw the Americans go down two men. Senior hooker Matt Reichl was sin binned on 23 minutes for punching in the rucks. He was followed just five minutes later by Captain Jake Womble who was punished for persistent infringement by the team in and around the rucks. Despite the numerical disadvantage and aided by another missed Britannia penalty, the Gold Shirt defense remained strong and preserved the shut out.

The final score on the day came with the Mids from Annapolis still down a man. Strong runs and rucking by the Navy pack brought the ball out of their 22 to their 10 meter line. Eric McElvenny then burst through a hole in the Dartmouth backline off a pass from Peterson, juked his opposite in the open field, and strode in to touch under the

posts after his 60 meter run, no conversion (Navy 44 BRNC 0).



The final whistle saw hand shakes and photos all around accompanied by promises about the outcome of future matches aplenty. Thank you to the Britannia Royal Naval College for making us a stop on their tour and best of luck down the road.

#### Scoring Stats:

##### Trys

Fogler  
Gonzales x2  
Humara x2  
McElvenny  
Womble

##### Conversions missed

Hobby x3  
Drummond

##### Penalties

Hobby

##### Conversions made

Hobby x2  
Drummond

##### Cards:

Reichl & Womble





United States Naval Academy Starting 15: (L to R, Top row) McElvenny, Hobby, Uber, McLemore, Paul, Bosma, Ragsdale, Gonzales, Schmidt  
(Bottom row) Marrone, Fogler, Drummond, Womble, Humara, Peterson



Britannia Royal Naval College Starting 15